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of the

for the year

1946

REPORT

OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR



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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1946

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (part time) :

BERTRAM SUGGIT, M.B., Ch.B. (Leeds and Manchester),
D.P.H. (Cambs.).

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR :

ARTHUR JUMP, F.S.I.A., Cert.R.San.Inst. (Meat and Foods).

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS :

BERTRAM J. DREW, M.S.I.A., Cert.R.San.Inst. (Meat and
Foods).

RUSSELL F. FORRYAN, M.S.I.A., Cert.R.San.Inst. (Meat and
Foods). (On military service until June).

RONALD W. BASHFORD, M.S.I.A., Cert.R.San.Inst. (Meat and
Foods). (Resigned July 1946).

CLERICAL ASSISTANTS :

LISTER H. HOOK (on military service). (Resigned November).

T. ORME (resigned December).

MISS V. PAMMENTER (appointed June).

ROBERT A. HUNT (on military service).



*To the Chairman and Members of the Letchworth
Urban District Council*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

At the request of the Ministry of Health, and in accordance with the Sanitary Officers' Orders, the following report is submitted. It is the twenty-eighth report on the sanitary circumstances and vital statistics of your district. The report covers the period from the 1st January to 31st December, 1946. In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, the report is considerably curtailed, but it does contain tables of vital statistics of the district for the years 1941 to 1946 inclusive.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA

The area of the district is 4,905 acres.

Inhabited Houses. There were 5,201 occupied dwellings according to the rate books at 31st December.

Population. The Registrar General estimates the civilian population for the year 1946 to be 19,840. Having regard to local information at my disposal, 20,023 is, I think, a more accurate estimate. Undoubtedly, during the year, the population fluctuated considerably from time to time and directed workers were constantly being moved in and out.

Rateable Value. The rateable value is estimated to be £167,707 and the product of a penny rate as £677.

Vital Statistics

Births

			Total	Males	Females
Live births.	Legitimate	...	336	169	167
	Illegitimate	...	19	11	8
Totals			355	180	175

The birth rate is 17·8 which compares with that of 19·1 for England and Wales. Last year the rate was lower, it being 16·07.

		Total	Males	Females
Still births :	Legitimate ...	8	4	4
	Illegitimate ...	1	1	—
	Totals ...	<hr/> 9 <hr/>	<hr/> 5 <hr/>	<hr/> 4 <hr/>

The still birth rate per thousand live and still births is 24·7, and per thousand civilian population 0·45; this latter rate compares with the rate of 0·53 for England and Wales.

Deaths

Total 184; Males 83, Females 101.

Eleven more than last year. The death rate is 9·2 per thousand civilian population and compares with 11·5 for England and Wales.

Deaths from Puerperal causes. There were no deaths and the Maternal Mortality Rate is therefore nil.

Infant Mortality

		Total	Males	Females
	Legitimate ...	6	3	3
	Illegitimate ...	1	1	—
	Totals ...	<hr/> 7 <hr/>	<hr/> 4 <hr/>	<hr/> 3 <hr/>

The rate per thousand live births is 19·7 and compares favourably with the rate of 43 for England and Wales. This is low, although slightly higher than last year when it was 18·7.

The causes of death were :

Ref. No.		Males	Females
4.	Whooping cough	1	0
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	3	3
7.	Other forms of tuberculosis	1	1
8.	Syphilitic diseases	1	0
9.	Influenza	0	1
11.	Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	0	1
13.	Cancer, buccal cavity, etc.	1	5
14.	Cancer, stomach and duodenum	2	3
15.	Cancer, breast	0	3
16.	Cancer, all other sites	14	4
17.	Diabetes	0	1
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	8	15
19.	Heart disease	22	24
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system ...	6	2
21.	Bronchitis	1	4
22.	Pneumonia	1	3
23.	Other respiratory diseases	1	0
24.	Ulcer, stomach or duodenum	3	1
25.	Diarrhoea under two years	1	0
26.	Appendicitis	1	0
27.	Other digestive diseases	1	4
28.	Nephritis	3	2
31.	Premature birth	0	0
32.	Congenital malformations, injuries, etc.	1	3
33.	Suicide	0	1
34.	Road traffic accidents	2	0
35.	Other violent causes	1	2
36.	All other causes	8	18
Totals		83	101

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year; there were no deaths from diphtheria or measles, but there was one death from whooping cough and one from diarrhoea (under two years of age).

Tables I, II and III give comparative vital statistics for the years 1941 to 1946 inclusive. Death Rates and Birth Rates are based on the Registrar General's estimate of the population unless otherwise stated.

It will be seen that the health of the town has been remarkably good during the year, the birth rate is slightly below that for England and Wales, the death rate is much lower, and the infant mortality exceptionally low.

TABLE I

Cancer.	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
No. of deaths—						
Males	16	19	9	12	11	17
Females	18	11	19	20	15	15
Death rate per 1,000 pop.	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.6

Puerperal Sepsis.

No. of cases notified ...	—	2	1	1	—	—
No. of deaths	—	—	1	—	—	—
Death rate, 1,000 births ...	0.0	0.0	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

No. of cases notified—						
Males	13	8	12	12	17	10
Females	5	7	4	6	4	5
Attack rate, 1,000 pop. ...	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.86	1.05	0.75
No. of deaths—						
Males	8	2	1	4	3	3
Females	4	3	—	1	2	3
Death rate per 1,000 pop.	0.5	0.2	0.04	0.28	0.25	0.3

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

No. of cases notified—						
Males	5	6	6	4	3	1
Females	3	2	6	3	6	1
Attack rate, 1,000 pop. ...	0.3	0.37	0.5	0.33	0.45	0.1
No. of deaths—						
Males	—	2	—	2	—	1
Females	—	1	1	2	—	1
Death rate per 1,000 pop.	0.0	0.1	0.04	0.19	0.0	0.1

TABLE II
URBAN DISTRICT OF LETCHWORTH

	1921 census	1931 census	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
No. of inhabited houses December 31st ...	2,708	3,897	5,111	5,111	5,111	5,111	5,148	5,201
Population—local estimate ...	10,832	14,808	21,977	21,977	21,977	21,466	20,220	20,023
No. of births ...	219	217	—	357	338	407	321	355
For infant mortality* ...	—	—	302	—	—	—	—	—
For birth rate* ...	—	—	281	—	—	—	—	—
Birth rate (based on local estimate of population) ...	20.2	14.6	12.7	16.2	15.38	19.0	15.8	17.7
No. of infant deaths ...	12	9	12	5	14	18	6	7
Infant mortality ...	55	41.4	39	14	41	44.2	18.7	19.7
Maternal mortality ...	—	17.7	—	—	2.8	2.4	—	—
No. of deaths ...	77	105	228	195	203	206	173	184
Crude death rate (local estimate of population) ...	7.1	7	10.3	8.9	9.2	9.6	8.5	9.1
Corrected death rate (local estimate of population) ...	—	7.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Population — Registrar General's estimate ...	10,302	14,454	22,380	21,510	21,420	20,830	19,970	19,840
Birth rate (based on Reg. Gen. estimate of population) ...	21.3	15.0	12.5	16.6	15.7	19.5	16.07	17.8
Death rate (based on Reg. Gen. estimate of population):—								
Crude ...	7.5	7.2	10.1	9.06	9.4	9.8	8.6	9.2
Corrected ...	—	7.8	—	—	—	—	—	—

*Special war-time figures given by Registrar General.

TABLE III

ENGLAND AND WALES

	1921 census	1931 census	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Birth rate ...	22.4	15.8	14.2	15.8	16.5	17.6	16.1	19.1
Death rate ...	12.1	12.3	12.9	11.6	12.1	11.6	11.4	11.5
Infant mortality ...	83	66	59	49	49	46	46	43

One hundred and forty-eight smaller towns (25,000—50,000)
England and Wales.

Birth rate ...	22.7	15.6	16.4	18.4	19.4	20.9	19.2	21.3
Death rate ...	—	11.3	13.0	12.1	12.7	12.4	12.3	11.7
Infant mortality ...	84	62	56	46	46	44	43	37

LETCHWORTH URBAN

Birth rate ...	21.3	15.0	12.5	16.6	15.7	19.5	16.07	17.8
Death rate ...	7.5	7.8	10.1	9.06	9.4	9.8	8.6	9.2
Infant mortality ...	55	41.4	39	14	41	44.2	18.7	19.7

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(i) *Staff.* See list at front of Report.

For details of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors reference should be made to the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

(ii) *Other services.*

(a) *Laboratory facilities.* Advantage has been taken of the services of the Ministry of Health Emergency Laboratories. The arrangements made for the reception of swabs at the Health Office and for the swabs to be taken direct to the laboratory at Lister hospital, is working satisfactorily, and proving of benefit as the medical practitioners now receive the results much earlier. Seventy-six swabs and specimens were dealt with during the year.

(b) *Ambulance facilities.* No change.

(c) *Nursing in the home.* No change.

(d) *Treatment Centres and Clinics.* The Urban Council is responsible for the treatment of scabies and a clinic is held weekly, or as often as necessary, at the rear of the Health Office in Gernon Road. Miss L. Sinclair carries out the treatment and during the year the results have been very satisfactory. There is no doubt that the early treatment of cases has resulted in the incidence of this complaint being reduced. Details of the work carried out during 1946 are as follows :—

Number of clinics held	...	...	...	...	48
Total number of treatments	...	...	...	...	233
Number of children treated	82	(54 being primary)			
Number of adults treated : males	68	(40	„	„)
„ „ „ „ females	83	(55	„	„)

The County Council holds a minor ailment clinic for school children at the Howard Hall. The other treatment Centres and Clinics have carried on normally and are doing excellent work.

(c) *Hospitals* (public and voluntary). No change.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

I. (i) *Water.* There has been no material change during the year.

In response to circular 28/46, issued by the Ministry of Health, I submit the following information :

- (i) (a) The supply has been satisfactory in quality.
- (b) The supply has been satisfactory in quantity.
- (ii) The supply is sampled bacteriologically every two weeks, the samples being taken systematically at the pumping stations and from various points within the area of supply. The results are satisfactory. Chemical analyses are taken every four weeks. The results are satisfactory and show little variation.

- (iii) There is no plumbo-solvent action.
- (iv) No action was necessary to deal with contamination. The whole supply is subjected to chlorination treatment.
- (v) With the exception of five cottages at Radwell in the extreme North-East and two houses and a petrol filling station and cafe at Jacks Hill to the South-West, all the properties in the Urban District are provided with a direct piped supply of water from the Company's mains. There are no standpipes. The supplies from the private wells are kept under observation.

(ii) *Drainage and Sewerage.* No material change has taken place. The question of extending the sewage works is receiving the serious consideration of the Council, and schemes are being prepared by the Consulting Engineers.

2. *Rivers and Streams.* No change.

3. (i) *Closet accommodation.* No change.

(ii) *Public cleansing.* The whole of this work is carried out under the supervision of the Surveyor. Owing to shortage of manpower and vehicles it proved difficult to maintain an efficient collection of house refuse. The house refuse is disposed of by "controlled tipping" on land adjacent to the Baldock Urban District Council's sewage works by arrangement with that Authority.

(iii), (iv), (v), (vi), and (viii). These matters are fully dealt with in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

(vii) *Swimming baths and pools.* (a) Public. The ozone open air swimming pool in the Norton Common continues to be well patronized and there were 61,584 attendances during the year. A series of samples were submitted to bacteriological examination and the results were satisfactory.

The pool is under the supervision of Mr. G. T. Hill, the Surveyor, and he and his staff are again to be congratulated on maintaining a consistently high hygienic standard.

SECTION D. HOUSING

Four new permanent houses were built during the year, in addition a studio was converted into two small flats and the remainder of the fifty prefabricated bungalows in Bedford Road were completed and occupied. This accommodation did help to relieve some of the overcrowding in the town, but a large number of houses still contain many occupants. It will be remembered that in April 1945 a survey was commenced to ascertain the extent of overcrowding and details of the position at December 31st 1946 will be found in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. One fact of interest is that the average number of persons per house is 3·82.

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected (for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts)	198
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	282
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	42
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	52
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	nil
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	66

Action under Statutory powers during the year:

(a)	Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	nil
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(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	3
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners	3
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	nil
(c)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	nil
(d)	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	nil

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its officers	71
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding :

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	27
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ...	47
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	234
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	20
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	20
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	165
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding :	
	(i) Number of cases	—
	(ii) Number of families concerned	—
	(iii) Number of persons	—

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Much time and thought was given to this work during the year and every effort was made in an endeavour to ensure that the residents were supplied with wholesome food and drink. Special attention was paid to the milk supply particularly to secure that the milk was of good keeping quality and clean. This objective was not easy of attainment having regard to the difficulties of the purveyors obtaining adequate supplies of capable labour and materials. Details of the work will be found in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION F. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. *General.*

During the year two hundred and thirty seven cases of infectious diseases were notified as compared with three hundred and eighty one during 1945. The decrease was mainly due to the non-prevalence of measles.

Catarrhal Jaundice. This disease in its varying forms has been notifiable in this Region since November 1943, and sixteen cases were notified during the year compared with four cases in 1945. Nine of the patients were children of school age and seven were adults. Details of each case were submitted to the Regional Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health who is engaged in carrying out a special investigation in connection with this complaint.

Chicken Pox. One hundred and thirteen cases were notified compared with seventy-six during 1945. One hundred of the cases occurred in children under the age of ten years and there were seven older children and six adults.

Diphtheria. Three cases were notified, all being children. During 1945 one case was notified. Two of these children were members of the same family and both these had been immunised. All three cases appear to have contracted the infection from a child who was found to be a carrier as a result of investigation. This child was also removed to the Isolation Hospital for treatment.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis. Two hundred and twenty-nine children were immunised during 1946 and it is estimated the percentages of children immunised at December 31st are as follows: Under the age of five years, 71%; Aged five years and under fifteen years 91%; or taking the child population as a whole 83.6%. These percentages are satisfactory and it is of interest that the incidence of diphtheria has decreased during the last few years. It is the object of the scheme to secure that as many children as possible are immunised immediately after their first birthday and then to give a reinforcing injection when they enter school. Forty-eight of these were done during the year.

Dysentery. No cases were notified during the year.

Erysipelas. One case was notified compared with seven cases in 1945. The patient was removed and treated at the Isolation Hospital.

Measles. This disease was not so prevalent and only twenty-four cases were notified as compared with two hundred and sixty-seven during 1945. The lower age groups were chiefly affected, the greatest number of cases being in the five to ten years age group. I am glad to report that none of the cases proved fatal.

Poliomyelitis. One case was notified early in the year, the patient being a married woman aged 62 years. I regret to report the case proved fatal.

Pneumonia. Nine cases were notified compared with five during 1945. Six of the cases received hospital treatment. Three of the cases were children, the remainder being adults.

Scarlet Fever. Fourteen cases were notified compared with thirteen during 1945. Twelve of the cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital and two cases were treated at home. The cases occurred sporadically throughout the year and there were no secondary cases. The disease was of a mild type and there were no deaths.

Undulant Fever. No cases were brought to my notice.

Whooping Cough. Fifty-four cases were notified compared with six cases in 1945. Fifty of the patients were children and four were adults. None of the cases was removed to hospital. There was one death.

2. *Cancer.*

There is no evidence of any abnormal prevalence. During the year there were thirty-two deaths, seventeen males and fifteen females. The death rate per thousand population was 1.6 slightly higher than usual.

3. *Tuberculosis.*

No action was necessary under the 1925 Regulations or the Public Health Act 1936.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1946

Age Periods			NEW CASES				DEATHS			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 year	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 „	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 „	...	...	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
10 „	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 „	...	...	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
20 „	...	...	2	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
25 „	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
35 „	...	...	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45 „	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 „	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	10	5	1	1	3	3	1	1
Comparative										
Totals 1945	...	...	17	4	3	6	3	2	—	—

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease.	At all ages	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over	Removed to Hospital	Total deaths
Catarrhal jaundice	16	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	2	7	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken pox	113	2	9	7	15	5	62	7	2	3	1	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Measles	24	1	1	6	4	4	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	9	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	3	3	6	1
Polio-myelitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—
Scarlet fever	14	—	—	—	1	1	8	4	—	—	—	—	—	12	—
Whooping cough	54	3	5	5	9	8	19	1	—	2	1	—	1	—	1
Totals	237	6	15	19	29	18	102	19	5	12	4	4	4	23	3

In conclusion I should like to thank both the Council and my colleagues in the Health Department and in all other services for their keen interest and co-operation during the year.

BERTRAM SUGGIT,

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1947.

Baldock.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

I have pleasure in submitting my seventeenth annual report of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors. During 1946 it again proved impracticable to carry out all the normal duties but every effort was made to ensure that essential matters were dealt with as quickly as possible.

Mr. Forryan returned from military service in June and Mr. Bashford who had been acting as temporary additional sanitary inspector resigned to take up duties with the Chingford Urban District Council. Miss V. Pammenter commenced duties as junior shorthand typist in June. Mr. L. H. Hook and Mr. T. Orme, clerical assistants resigned at the end of the year.

Housing. Restrictions on the use of building labour and materials prevented much repair work being carried out but as will be seen from the statistical records a considerable amount was accomplished. The licensing of works in connection with the Control of Civil Building and the issuing of the necessary permits under Circulars 100 and 138 took up a great deal of time.

Owing to pressure of work it was not possible to proceed with the housing survey as quickly as had been hoped. An interim report issued at 31st December showed that two thousand two hundred and seventy-three houses had been surveyed. These contained eight thousand six hundred and seventy-five persons, giving an average of 3.82 persons per house. Three hundred and seventy-eight houses contained two or more families and a further three hundred and twenty-nine provided accommodation for lodgers. Despite the many difficulties considerable progress was made with the abatement of overcrowding and at the end of the year there were only twenty-seven houses legally overcrowded and a further seventeen where there were bad living conditions.

Verminous conditions showed a slight improvement and even greater progress will be made when it is possible to provide new housing accommodation for sub-tenants living under crowded conditions.

Nuisances. Nearly all the nuisances found were of a minor character. Dustbins were in greater supply and two hundred and seventy were provided during the year.

Rats. No serious or major infestations were found and in co-operation with Mr. Sharp, the County Pests Officer, much useful work was accomplished. The increasing practice of entering into contracts for the systematic treatment of land and premises is undoubtedly having good effect and is steadily reducing the rat population.

Inspection of meat and other foods. The number of beasts slaughtered at the Regional slaughterhouse showed a slight decrease, the other animals being approximately the same as during 1945. The duties in connection with meat inspection continued to be onerous and entailed inspections at all hours of the day including Sundays and Bank Holidays.

The standard of slaughtering and dressing was satisfactory but the transport of carcasses and offals to the butchers shops left much to be desired. Most of the vehicles used are aged and are not provided with suitable hanging facilities. Strong representations were made to the proper quarters concerning this vital matter.

All the butchers shops and the wholesale meat depot received supervision and conditions were improved at seven shops. On the whole there was little cause for complaint.

Much attention was paid to the milk supply and many samples were taken. There were very few complaints from consumers regarding sour milk. Correct interpretation of milk sample results is not easy but speaking generally our results compare favourably with those of other towns. There were few complete failures but one would like to see a more consistently high standard.

It will be noted that eleven samples of ice cream were examined and that the average result was satisfactory. Draft Regulations controlling the manufacture and sale of ice cream were issued by the Ministry of Health towards the end of the year. The commodity is one that requires much control and supervision to ensure a safe product.

Infectious disease. As in former years a considerable amount of work was carried out and "follow up" work in connection with scabies cases proved valuable. Terminal disinfection is not carried out as a matter of routine but according to circumstances.

Factories and Workplaces. Systematic inspection of all premises proved impossible but visits were made to ensure enforcement of the Sanitary Accommodation Order. Generally speaking the sanitary conveniences at factories and workshops are better kept and not now misused to the same extent as they were formerly.

STATISTICAL RECORDS

1st January—31st December, 1946

GENERAL (under Public Health and Housing Acts):

(a) *Visits and Inspections:*

Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	...	...	156
Houses re-inspected under Public Health Acts	...	...	74
Houses inspected under Housing Acts	...	...	42
Houses re-inspected under Housing Acts	...	...	10
Houses visited re defective dustbins	...	...	302
Housing Survey: Form A primary	...	...	15
" " " A secondary	...	...	275
" " " B primary	...	...	18
" " " B secondary	...	...	—
Special survey—number of houses visited	...	...	571
Visits to overcrowded houses	...	...	79
Inhabited vans inspected	...	...	43
Nuisances investigated	...	...	142
Systematic investigation of district	...	...	39
Special investigations re water courses and ditches	...	...	25
" " sewers	...	...	14

Special investigations re industrial effluvia	...	...	12
" " pigeons	...	...	15
Visits and inspections to entertainment premises	...	...	4
" " of swimming baths	...	...	13
" " of waterworks	...	...	8
" " to burial grounds	...	...	—
Smoke observations	...	...	3
Drains—smoke tested	...	...	3
Drains—water tested	...	...	14
Drains—coloured tested	...	...	2
Visits to works outstanding and in progress	...	...	1115
Number of preliminary notices served	...	...	594
Number of statutory notices served	...	...	4
Visits to stables	...	...	11
Visits to piggeries	...	...	6
Visits to fowl runs	...	...	26
Visits to refuse tips	...	...	2
Visits re rat infestation	...	...	178*
Visits to conveniences	...	...	5
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	96
Samples of effluent submitted for analysis	...	...	—
Samples of water submitted for analysis	...	...	—

Special Emergency Duties :

Civil Building Control	...	...	1083
General Civil Defence	...	...	9
Feeding Centres and British Restaurant	...	...	25
Emergency Clinics	...	...	4
Emergency Mortuary	...	...	5
Nursery Schools	...	...	23
Food Control	...	...	3
Food Waste Collection and Salvage	...	...	107

Troop Billets	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hostels	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

(b) *Nuisances Abated and Repair Work Carried out :*

Choked drains cleared and put into proper order	...	40
Choked W.C.s cleared	...	4
Drains repaired or relaid	...	28
Inspection chambers built or repaired	...	13
Inspection chamber covers provided	...	7
Intercepting traps fixed or repaired	...	2
W.C.s repaired or renewed	...	69
W.C. flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	...	148
W.C.s cleansed	...	15
Urinals repaired or renewed	...	4
Soil pipes repaired or renewed	...	3
Vent pipes repaired or renewed	...	3
Fresh air inlets repaired or renewed	...	2
Gullies repaired or renewed	...	20
Sinks provided or renewed	...	29
Lavatory basins and baths fixed or renewed	...	39
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	68
Pail closets abolished	...	—
Pail closets repaired	...	1
Chemical Closets	...	4
Septic tanks built or repaired	...	1
Cesspools repaired	...	—
Cesspools emptied and cleansed	...	1
Cesspools abolished	...	—
Water service pipes repaired or renewed	...	123
Wells repaired	...	—
Eaves, guttering and rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	...	9
Dustbins provided	...	270

Yard paving provided or repaired	...	...	...	8
Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	19
Doors and door frames repaired or renewed	...	...	...	23
Windows and frames repaired or renewed	...	...	...	27
Lighting and ventilation improved	...	...	...	8
Fireplaces and ranges repaired or renewed	...	...	...	80
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	3
Hot water systems repaired	...	...	...	89
Coppers provided or repaired	...	...	...	16
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	19
Food Stores provided	...	...	...	2
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	—
Ceilings and plaster repaired	...	...	...	29
External rendering repaired or renewed	...	...	...	7
Brickwork repaired	...	...	...	8
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	23
Damp-proof courses renewed or provided	...	...	...	4
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	20
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	489
Dairies cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	19
Cowsheds cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	8
Cowsheds reconditioned	...	...	...	—
Bakehouses cleansed	...	...	...	4
Slaughterhouses cleansed	...	...	...	2
Lairages and stables cleansed	...	...	...	4
Filthy houses cleansed	...	...	...	2
Filthy ditches cleansed	...	...	...	1
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	21
Accumulations of manure removed	...	...	...	3
Animals improperly kept	...	...	...	6
Premises and sheds ratproofed	...	...	...	1
Premises gassed for rats	...	...	...	5

Premises baited for rats	11
Trapping	1
Rat tails brought in	—
Ponds cleansed	—
Ponds treated for mosquitos	3
Refuse tips treated for flies and crickets	—
Wasp nests destroyed	62

(c) *Infestations:*

	Council Houses	Other Houses	Visits
Bugs	7	33	76
Fleas	1	4	15
Scabies	2	8	12
Lice	—	2	4
Crickets	—	—	—
Ants	6	3	14
Beetles and Cockroaches	—	3	7
Wasps	3	36	60
Flies	—	6	8
Moths	—	4	7
Earwigs	—	—	—
Silver fish	—	3	6
Furniture beetle	2	12	28
Mosquitos	—	—	2

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

(a) *Visits and Inspections:*

To abattoir	...	616	To food preparing		
butchers' shops	...	266	places	...	23
butchers' vans	...	3	dairies	...	149
fish shops	...	36	cowsheds	...	75
other food shops	...	123	ice cream vendors	...	48
cafes	...	12	hawkers of food	...	96
bakehouses	...	37			

(b) *Carcases examined:*

(1) At abattoir :

Cows	...	1,129	Calves	...	2,070
Heifers	...	1,136	Sheep	...	7,410
Bulls	...	94	Pigs	...	2,476
Bullocks	...	1,848	Goats	...	228

(2) At shops, other premises and vans :

Beasts	...	24	Sheep	...	46
Calves	...	12	Pigs	...	10

(c) *Condemned as unfit for human food:*

(1) At abattoir :

40 cow carcasses	3 sides English beef
21 other beasts' carcasses	

(c) *Condemned as unfit for human food* (contd.)

52 forequarters English	30 calf carcasses
beef	18 calf heads
11 hindquarters English	24 lb. English veal
beef	47 plucks
1,454 lb. English beef	9 lungs
421 beasts' heads	12 livers
1,895 lungs	49 kidneys
85 hearts	13 spleens
755 livers	10 mesenteries
227 kidneys	74 other organs
541 beasts' mesenteries	
154 spleens	22 sheep carcasses
1,485 other organs	2 forequarters English
	mutton
22 pig carcasses	3 hindquarters English
9 forequarters English	mutton
pork	78 lb. English mutton
4 hindquarters English	11 sheep heads
pork	21 plucks
474 lb. English pork	74 lungs
190 pigs' heads	333 livers
86 plucks	24 kidneys
196 lungs	2 mesenteries
54 livers	8 spleens
143 kidneys	199 other organs
130 mesenteries	4 goat carcasses
48 spleens	3 plucks
237 other organs	1 lung
	4 livers
	7 kidneys
	2 spleens
	6 other organs
	Total weight, 106,760 lb.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED (EXCLUDING SHOPS)

	Cattle ex- cluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats
No. killed ...	3078	1129	2070	7410	2476	228
No. inspected ...	3078	1129	2070	7410	2476	228
All Diseases except Tuberculosis						
(1) Whole carcasses condemned ...	4	5	17	22	16	4
(2) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	395	269	34	536	229	11
(3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis ...	12.9	24.2	2.4	7.5	9.8	6.6
Tuberculosis only						
(1) Whole carcasses condemned ...	17	35	13	—	6	—
(2) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	313	387	10	—	135	—
(3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	10.7	37.3	1.1	—	7.7	—

Cow udder infection. As during previous years a careful examination was made of the udders of all cows slaughtered, and the results are as follows :

	Three Years 1944, 1945, 1946	1946
Number of cows slaughtered	4,091	1,129
Tubercular type lesions found in udder and/or supramammary lymphatic glands ...	238 = 5.8%	43 = 3.8%
Other udder infection ...	665 = 16.2%	201 = 17.8%
Total udder infection	903 = 22.0%	244 = 21.6%

(2) *At wholesale depot, shops and vans:*

467 lbs. English beef	158 pkts. sponge mixture
260 lbs. imported beef	21 lbs. coffee beans
1 sheep carcase	12 lbs. jam
2 lbs. English mutton	22 lbs. marmalade and
24 lbs. imported mutton	preserves
2 sheep plucks	50 lbs. dried bananas
11 lbs. English pork	2 cases dried apricots
1 pig's head	13 cans dried milk
7 pigs' plucks	865 cans condensed milk
11 pigs' other organs	784 cans beef
2,865 lbs. bacon	17 cans pork
15 lbs. ham	4 cans mutton
48 imported eggs	1 can brawn
40 lbs. egg pulp	6 cans tongue
1 packet dried eggs	159 cans meat products
1 lb. butter	280 cans fish
1 lb. margarine	246 cans vegetables
290 lbs. cheese	26 cans fruit
7 sacks flour	30 jars horse radish sauce
321 lbs. flour	60 lbs. chocolate
16 lbs. macaroni	224 lbs. herrings
8 packets oatecake	84 lbs. fish fillets
1 packet breakfast food	11 boxes mixed fish
59 packets invalid food	53 fowls

(d) *Slaughter of Animals:*

Regular notices of slaughter received	1
Notices of occasional or emergency slaughter received	75
Applications for licences to slaughter animals	18
Number of licences granted to slaughtermen	18
Amount of fees received	19/-

(e) *Milk Supply:*

Four farms are registered, three being licensed for the production of Accredited milk. There are eight retail purveyors of milk, six having premises within the Urban District. Seven are licensed to retail Tuberculin Tested milk; one retailer is licensed to pasteurize and sell pasteurized milk. Licensing fees amounted to £3 6s. 0d.

Summary of results of milk samples taken :—

					Tuberculin Tested milk	Accredited milk
Number taken	...	...	...	...	21	7
Methylene blue test satisfied			...	...	17	5
			failed	...	4	2
B. Coli. Absent in 1/100 ml.			...	...	13	4
Present	...	...	...	...	8	3
Bacterial Count—number submitted					19	5
Highest count	...	...	...	...	97,600	77,000
Lowest	...	...	...	...	1,300	3,400
Average	...	...	...	...	24,789	26,820
Resazurin Test—number submitted					7	6
Class A (market)			...	...	7	5
B	...	...	...	...	—	—
C	...	...	...	...	—	1
					Pasteurized milk	Ordinary milk
Number taken	...	...	...	...	18	73
Methylene blue test—						
Number submitted	...		...	...	14	52
Satisfied	...		...	...	14	42
Failed	...		...	...	—	10
B. Coli.—number submitted			...	...	13	73
Absent in 1/100 ml.			...	...	12	41
Present	...		...	...	1	32
Bacterial Count—number submitted					17	62
Highest count	...		...	...	49,500	750,000
Lowest	...		...	...	1,500	1,300
Average	...		...	...	14,000	52,829

Summary of results of milk samples taken—(contd.)

				Pasteurized milk	Ordinary milk
Phosphatase Test—					
Number submitted ...				10	9
Passed ...				10	7
Failed ...				—	2
Resazurin Test—number submitted				—	6
Class A (market) ...				—	5
B ...				—	—
C ...				—	1
<i>Milk Acidity Tests</i>					
Number carried out at office ...				...	...
Satisfactory ...				...	...
Unsatisfactory ...				...	...

Special samples

One sample of ordinary milk was examined for the presence of organisms of dysentery, enteric and food poisoning groups with negative results.

The Milk (Ministry of Food) Regulation 55 G

The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations

Forty-six samples were taken during the year for and on behalf of the County Council. In addition seven samples were submitted for biological examination with negative results.

Ice Cream

Number of samples submitted ...				...	...	11
B. Coli. 1/10 gm.						
Absent ...				...	...	7
Present ...				...	...	4
Bacterial count—						
Highest ...				...	per gm. 200,000	
Lowest ...				...	„ 1,100	
Average ...				...	„ 12,900	

(f) *Adulteration:*

The County Council are the Food and Drugs Authority for the district, the officer being G. F. Hart, Esq., and all complaints of adulterated food are referred to him.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

(a) *Visits and Inspections:*

re scabies clinic	102
diphtheria immunization	6
venereal disease propaganda	1
swabs taken to Laboratory	76
to infected houses	336
children's and nursing homes	6
schools	20
Number of school notices sent	74

(b) *Disinfection:*

General cases	35 rooms
Schoolrooms	1
Hospital Wards	2
Tuberculosis cases	26 rooms
Vehicles	1
Library books	14
Disinfestation	35

Bedding stored:

Beds	—
Mattresses	40
Pillows	29
Blankets	4
Quilts	4
Sheets	4
Bolsters	3
Palliascs	3

Bedding destroyed:

Mattresses	6
Pillows	2
Blankets	1

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

				Inspections	Notices
Mechanical factories	...	...	...	114	12
Non-mechanical factories	...	...	...	27	—
Workplaces	...	...	...	12	—
Outworkers	...	...	...	1	—

Defects found and remedied

				Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness	...	...	...	4	3
Want of ventilation	...	...	...	2	2
Want of drainage of floors	...	...	...	—	—
Other nuisances	...	...	...	7	6
Sanitary accommodation					
Insufficient	...	...	...	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	...	...	...	4	4
Not separate for sexes	...	...	...	—	—
Other offences	...	...	...	4	2
Matters referred to H.M. Inspector of					
Factories	...	...	...	...	...
					1

PETROLEUM ACTS

Visits and inspections	...	...	...	...	35
Number of contraventions found	...	...	...	...	4
Number remedied	...	...	...	...	4
Number of licences granted					
(a) petroleum spirit and products	...	...	...	...	40
(b) carbide of calcium	...	...	...	...	6

Amount of fees received £28.

SHOPS ACTS

Number of shops on Register	...	...	...	...	214
Visits and inspections	...	...	...	...	11
Number of cantraventions found	...	...	...	...	2
Number remedied	...	...	...	...	2

GAME LICENCES

Visits and inspections	...	...	...	...	1
Number of licences granted	...	...	...	...	1
Amount of fees received	...	...	...	...	5/-

HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS—BYELAWS

Number of visits and inspections	...	...	...	...	22
Number of contraventions found	...	...	...	...	—
Number remedied	...	...	...	...	—

Despite the pressure of emergency and special duties a considerable amount of normal routine work was carried out and this was only accomplished by the loyal co-operation of all concerned. I must once again record my appreciation of the help and ready assistance of my Deputy, Mr. B. J. Drew.

ARTHUR JUMP,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Health Office,
Gernon Road,
Letchworth.

September 1947.



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